

From: Arletaj@aol.com
Sent: Friday, November 21, 2003 12:39 AM
To: adoptionregs@state.gov
Subject: Re: Hague Convention

Hello,

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Hague Convention. Overall, I welcome these changes to the international adoption process. My one area of concern is the fairly consistent focus of service delivery by the Master level Social Worker. In essence, it seems that other professions are somewhat excluded from the Hague Convention - especially when it comes to writing home studies.

I am not aware that educational programs offering Master level course work for Social Workers include specific classes in adoption that in turn would generate a professional more prepared to carry out adoption services than would graduate programs in psychology, counseling or other related human service fields.

I hold an MS in Community Counseling and am licensed as a Professional Clinical Counselor. I have been providing adoption services for 10 years. I have worked with hundreds of adoptive families. I have created policy for the state of Pennsylvania which has been implemented throughout that state. I conduct trainings on all aspects of adoption. I am co-developer of an international pre-adoption training program that since its introduction earlier this year has been distributed to over 60 international adoption agencies. I am currently employed as a therapist with an agency that has an international reputation in the provision of attachment and adoption services. Yet, in spite of my experience, the Hague Convention will prevent me from providing home study services.

It seems to me that, as written, the Hague Convention will exclude numerous qualified professionals from providing services to families and children involved in international adoption. So, in an effort to move this form of adoption to a higher level, this document falls short. And, quite frankly, as a taxpayer, I find the government's position unacceptable and discriminatory.

I certainly hope this issue is resolved to include qualified professionals from various fields.

Sincerely,
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